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United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)  
International Operational Agriculture Monitoring Program



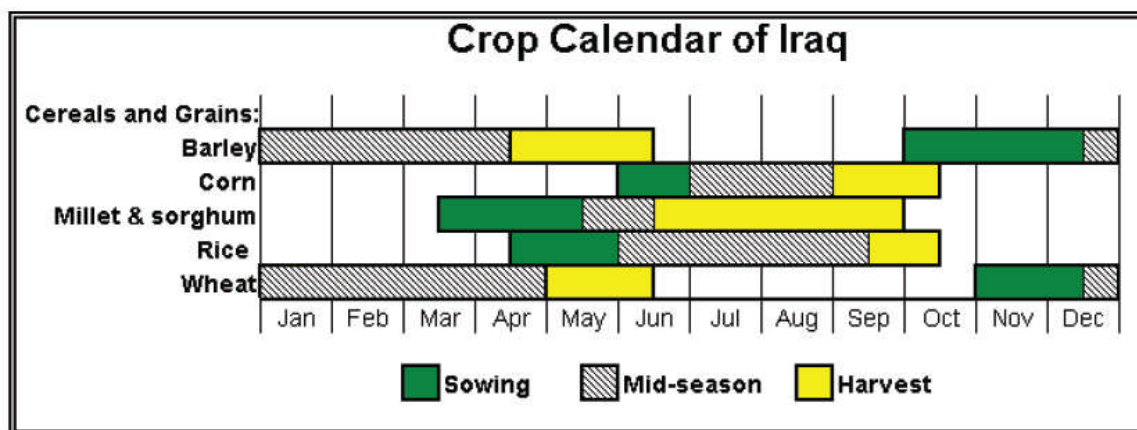
**August Lockup – July Summary**

**Aug. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008**

1. Production for MY 2008/09 winter grains is forecasted to be lower than the previous year. Production decreases are related to late rainfall during the start of season combined with below normal seasonal precipitation. The predominantly rainfed northern governorates were impacted the most with lower production also expected in central and southern governorates.
2. Mid-season analysis of the 2008 summer crop showed that summer crop abundance has remained relatively similar to previous years. Despite large decreases in the southern governorates of Salah ad Din, Diyala, Al Anbar, and Baghdad, there are several large areas in the northern provinces of Ninawa and Arbil that are exhibiting crop growth that exceeds the 6-year average. The main rice production areas of An Najaf and Al Qadisiyah are also progressing with an approximate planted area of 55,000 hectares (Figure 1).

\*The rice area statistic will change as the season progresses.

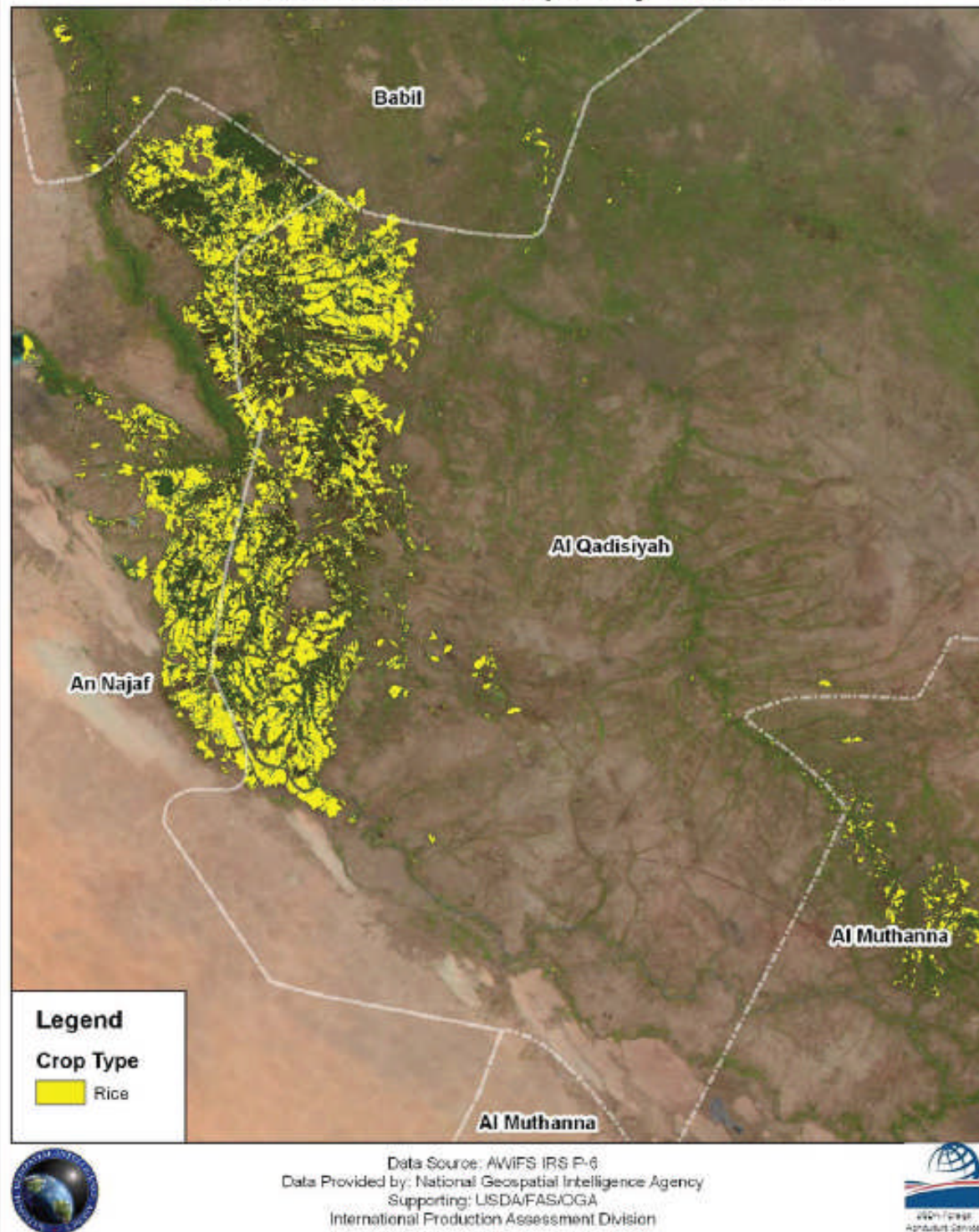
3. Change detection analysis of moderate resolution Landsat TM and AWiFS IRS P-6 imagery acquired on July 2006 and July 2008 showed significantly less summer crop cover in the provinces of Diyala, Salah ad Din and Baghdad for 2008 (Figure 2). The same analysis was conducted over the provinces of Karbala and Babil, showing slight decreases, but overall crop growth remained the same (Figure 3).
4. Crop abundance and change detection maps derived from MODIS 250-meter NDVI showed similar results to the moderate resolution imagery. The analysis compared imagery from July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2008 with the 6-year average (Figure 4). Areas of significant increase are visible in the northern provinces of Ninawa and Arbil with large areas of decrease in the southern provinces of Diyala, Salah ad Din, and Al Anbar (Figure 5). Most of the summer crop cover remains similar to the 6-year average.



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Figure 1: Rice classification map: July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008.

## Rice Classification Map: July 17th, 2008





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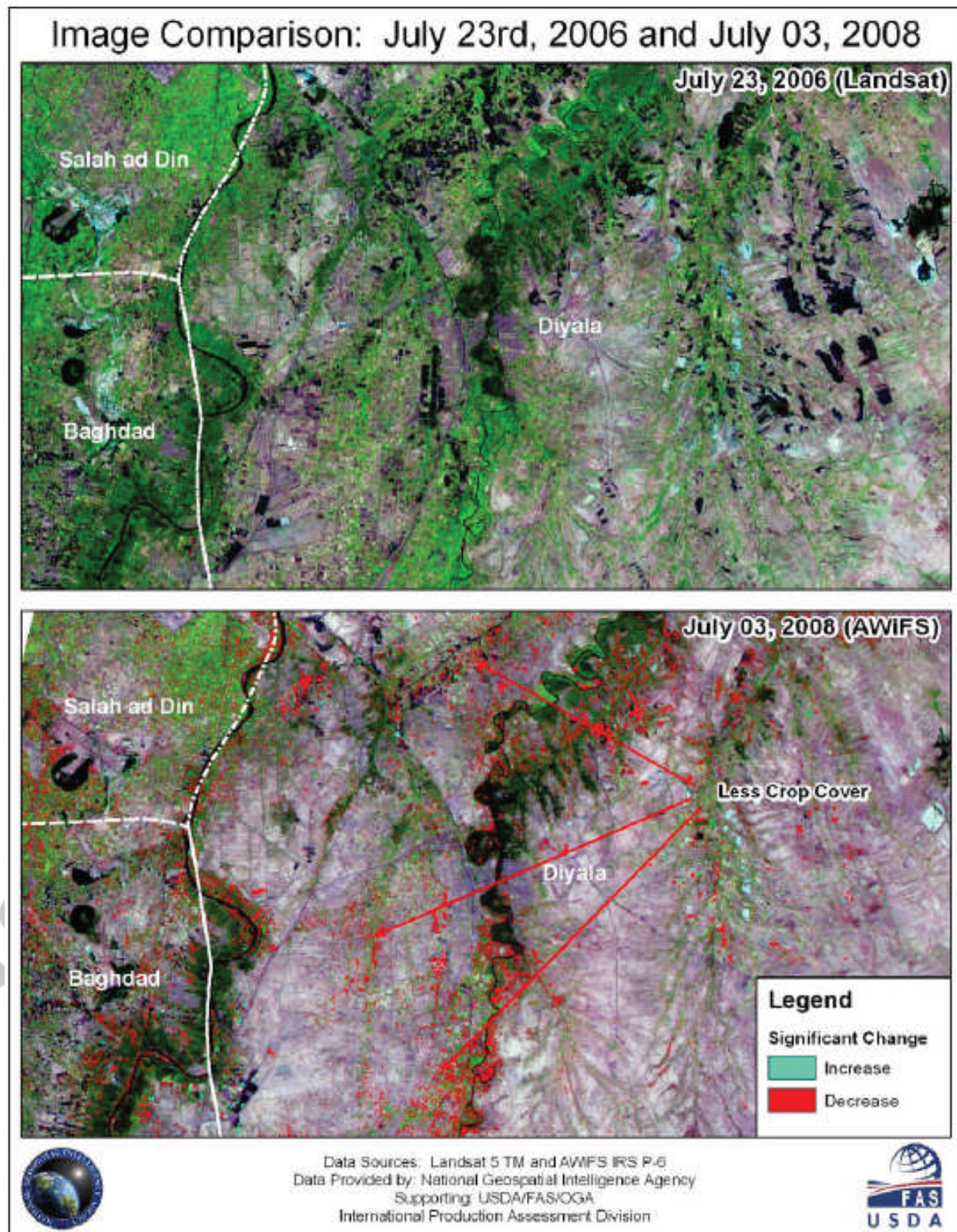


Figure 2: Change analysis: July 23rd, 2006 and July 3rd, 2008.



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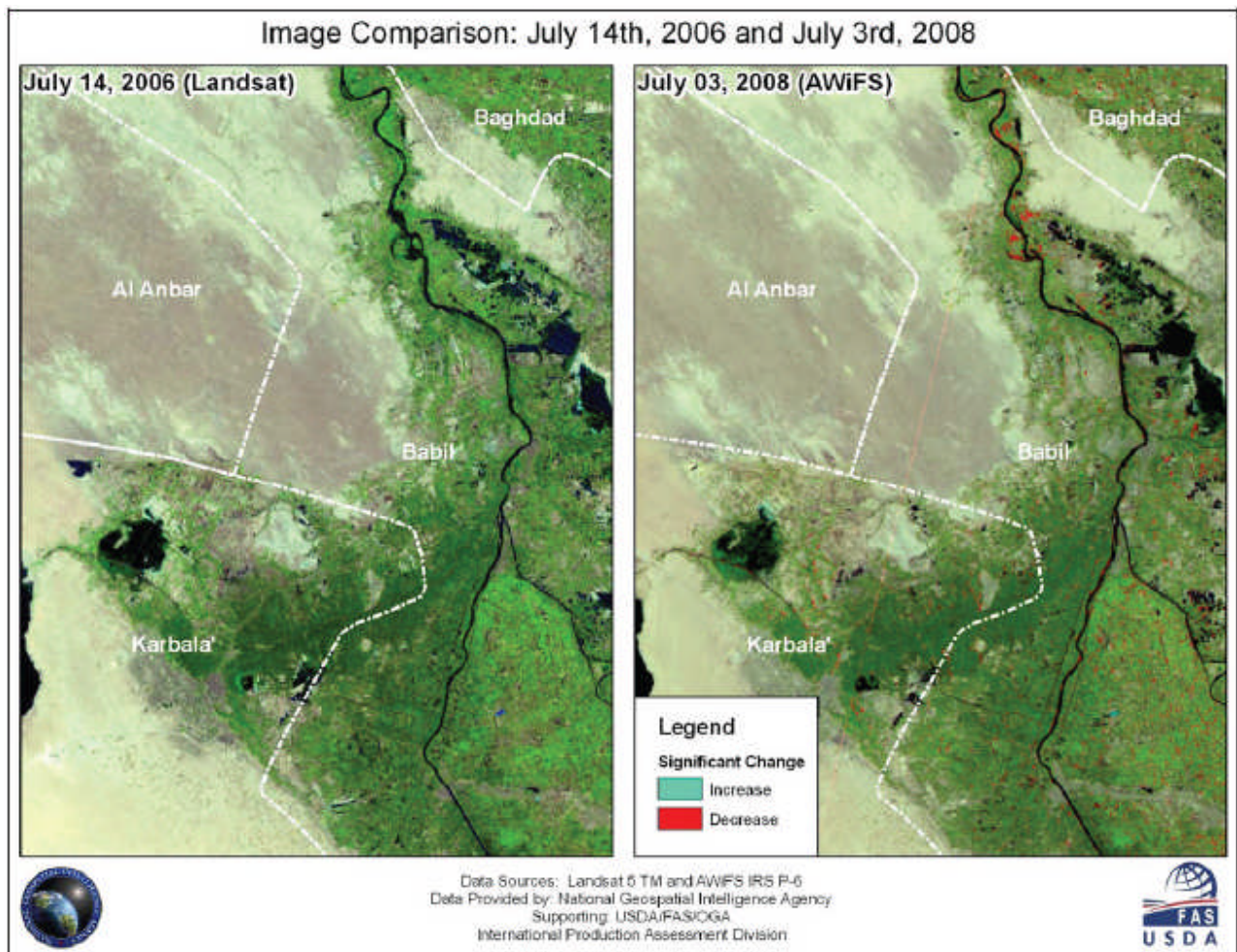


Figure 3: Change analysis: July 14th, 2006 and July 3rd, 2008.

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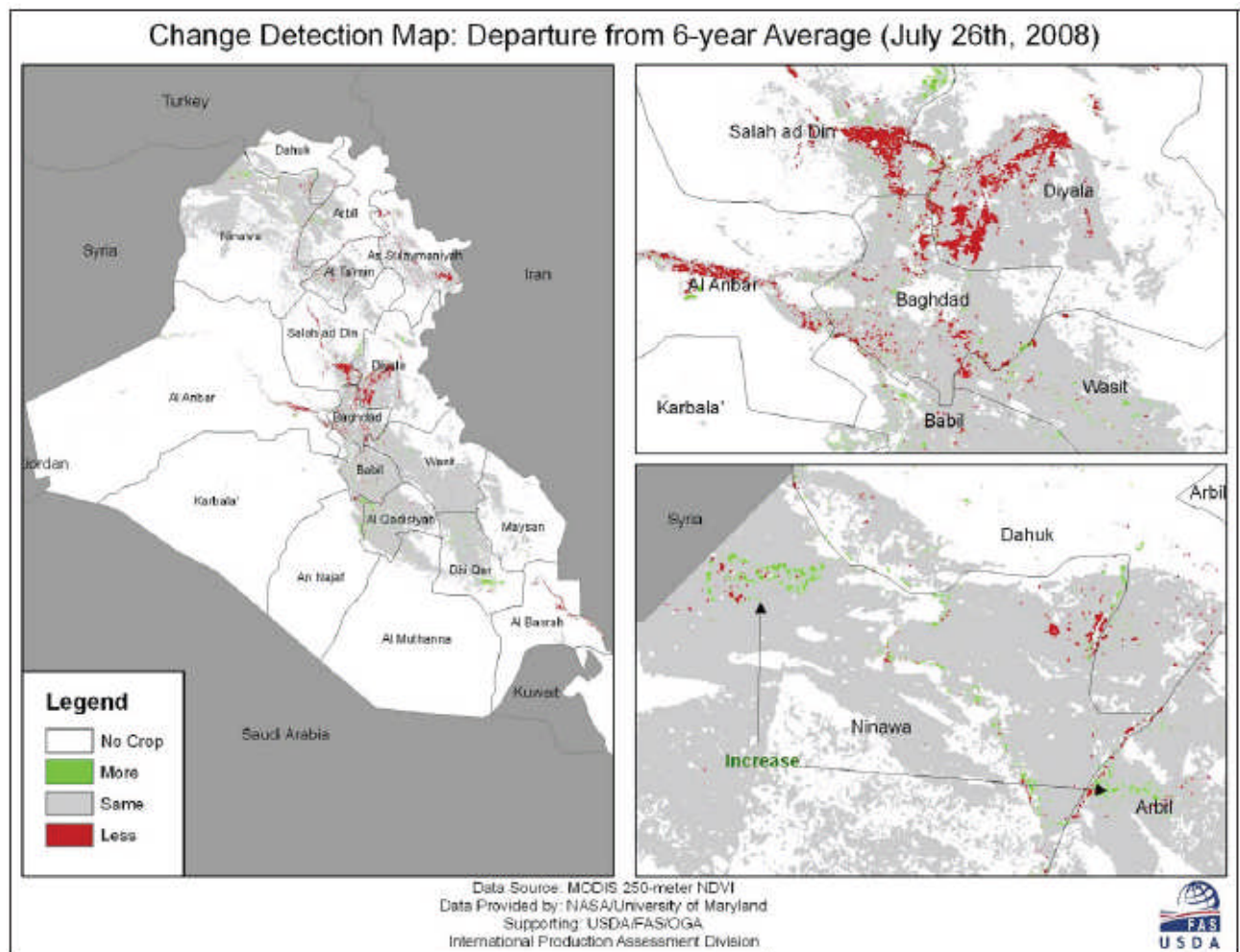


Figure 4: Departure from 6-year average change detection map: MODIS 250-meter NDVI (July 26th, 2008).



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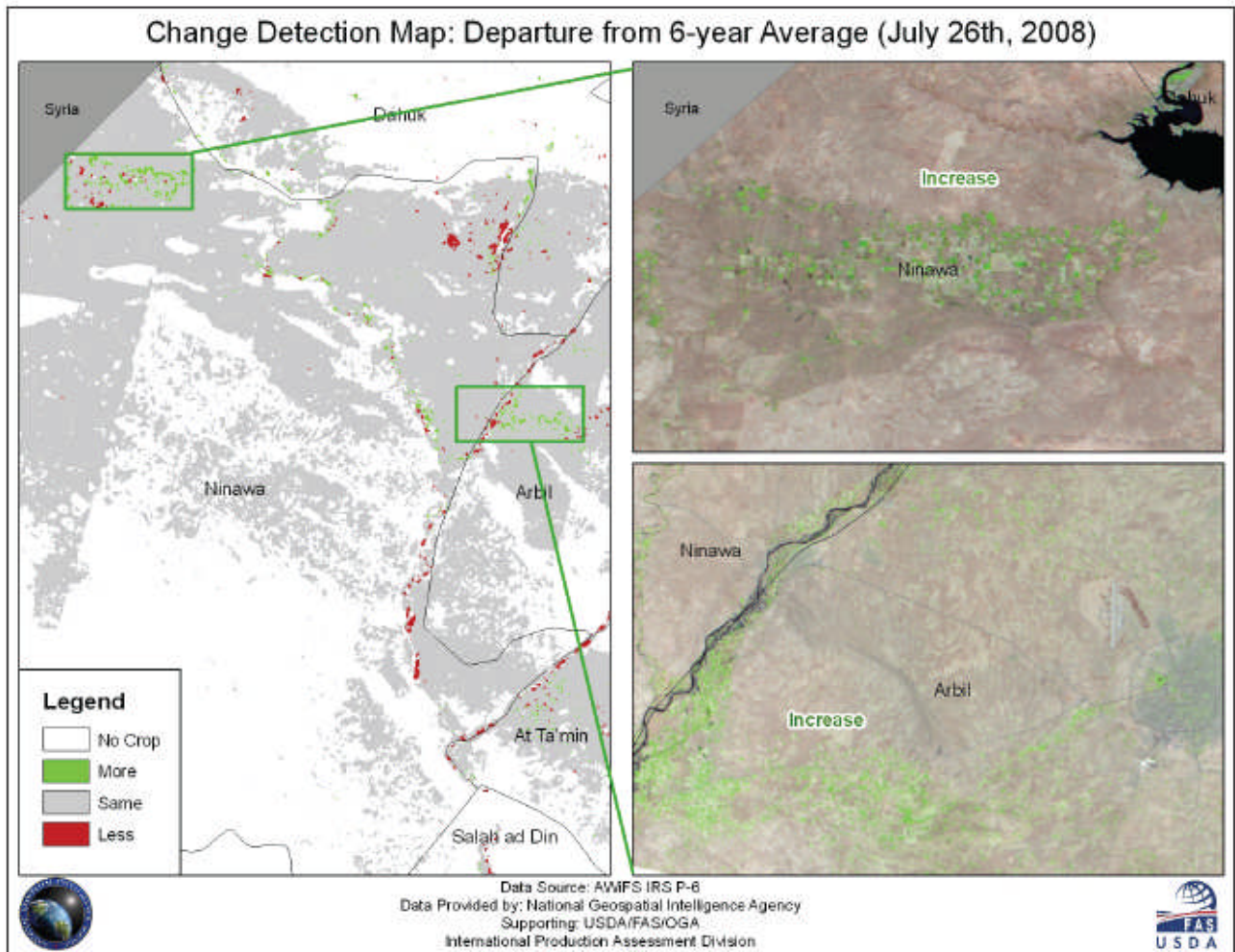


Figure 5: Areas of significant increase in comparison to the 6-year average.